up:o Amritsar w.e.f. 1-7-1994 are available betwee$_n$ Delhi and Amritsar. Out of these 9 pairs arc stopping at Beas, Special trains for Radhaswamics are also run every year between Delhi and Beas.

Iniroduciion of a new train between Delhi and Amritsar is presently not feasible due to operational reasons and resource constraints.

Modernisaion of Railway Staions in Howrah Division

209. SHRI JOYANTA ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of I he fact that thousands of passengers in-cluding several hundreds commuters travel daily between Howrah and Azimgunj in Howrah Division and between Seajdah and Lalgola in Sealdah Division of the Eastern Railway covering the distance of nearly 230 km anj 260 km respectively and n$_0$ steps excepting increase in number of few trains have been taken for the modernisation of these two sec-lions since independence;

(b) if so. whether Government have any scheme to modernise these two sections of Eastern Railway and what is the present stage *ol* the development process; and

(c) if not, whether Government would lake appropriate measures to modernise these two sections by introduction of EMU trains by electrification, construction cf double tracks'.'

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF^: (a) and ib). EMU services are already available between Howrah-Bandel and Sealdah-Krishnanagar sections. Improvement has been brought in service$_s$ on Bandel-Kalwa-Azimgunj and Krishna naear-Laloola sections through diese'isa-lion. revision of time table and intro-duction of ne$_w$ trains Electrification of Bandel-Katwa Section is in progress and is targetted &>i completion by December. 1995. Further work relating to pro-viding 3 additional crossing stations on Bandel-Katwa sections is also in progress.

(c) EMU services will be planned on Bandel-Katwa section on commissioning of electrification. Doubling of Bandel-Katwa-A Kimganj and Ranaghat-Krisnna nagar-Lalgola sections is not considered justified with the present level of raffle.

Derailment of Trains

210. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to stale:

(a) what is the percentage of derailments out of the total train accidents during the last two years;

(b) what is the average number of de-railments per month during the first eight months of the current year;

(c) what is the average number of deiailments; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to reduce derailments?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C K. JAFFER SHARIEF);

(a) Derailments formed 78 per cent of train accidents during the last two years.

(b) T$_n$ the first 8 months of the cur rent financial year, on an average, 34 de railments occurred per month.

(c) the derailments generally occur due to failure of equipment viz. railway track and rolling stock; lapses by engineering. mechanical, running and station staff and sabotage, etc

(d) Safety measures are continuously undertaken to prevent derailments. Some of them are :—

(i) Planned renewal and rehabilitation of overaged assets like track, rolling stock and bridges.

(ii) Thorough periodical examination of coaches, wagons and locomotives in sheds and shops io keep ihem in good fettle,

(iii) Ultrasonic testing of rails and axles to identify fractures.

(iv) Design improvement of certain type of rolling stock.

(v) Upgradation of maintenance skill of staff to suit advanced technologies.

fvj) Identification of vulnerable and lilment-prone sections and induction of necessary inputs therein.

i\ii) Training, counselling and monitoring of running staff.

<\iii) Constitution of High-level safety teams to conduct intensive inspections of field installations and operating practices t_0 enhance safety consciousness at the grass-root level.

Resignation by the Chairman, Konkan Railways

211. SHRI VIRENDR/v KATARJA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be picas. J to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman. Konkan Railways has submit-i resignation and jf s°- the details thereof:

lb) what action has been taken by Government thereon:

(c) whether it is a'so a fact th&< ral to-i Engineers working in the tunnel and bridges on the Konkan Railways have sought permission to return 'o their respective Railways Zones; and

(d) if so. i he details of th; reasons submitted by them and :. : ion taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Docs not arise.

(c) No, Sic.

(d) Does noi arise.

Contract for optical fibre communi'. atlon system for Konkan R <-v. lys

212. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARlA : Will ihe Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased (o state:

(a) whether the contract for the optical fibre communication system for Konkan Railways hag been finalised and if so. the Dames of the party [0 whom the said contract was given;

lb) the details of the quotation received from (he contractor or the optical fibre communication system; and

(c) whether ii is a fact that the Chief of Konkan Railways haj refused to award contract f ths r"l.ir>! fibre com-municaticn system in favour of the per-s; $_n$ recommended by him and if so, the names of *ths* said firm and the rates i by that firm?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K JAFFER SHARIEF): la) to (c). Information ;$_s$ being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

अहमदाबाद-हावड़ा ट्रेन का देरी से चलना

213. श्री आनन्दीबेन जेठाभाई पटेल : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अहमदाबाद-हावड़ा एक्सप्रेस डप और हावड़ा-अहमदाबाद एक्सप्रेस डाउन अपने निर्धारित समय से नहीं चल रही है, यदि हां, तो इसके कारण क्या हैं ;